

February 6, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
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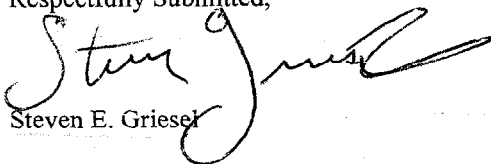
To Whom It May Concern:

I am contacting your agency (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) hoping to urge it to grant Petition 98P-0151/CP1, which prohibits the slaughter of downed animals. It strikes me very sadly that I have to write you, as hundreds and thousands of others must do as well, in order for the aforementioned legislation to be considered, let alone adopted by your agency. I cannot possibly fathom how the horrible treatment of these animals continues to go on, and worse, continues to be tolerated. Is it really too much to ask or expect that these helpless, frightened, and suffering animals be treated humanely and with some dignity. As far as I'm concerned, the moral and ethical arguments should be more than enough to condemn this barbaric treatment of these creatures. However, there are also many other human related benefits that enactment of the petition will bring about.

For instance, these sick/injured animals should not even be allowed to enter the food chain at all, since, quite possibly, they could be infected with "Mad Cow Disease", which has been linked to fatal human illnesses. Additionally, since downed animals comprise a relatively small percentage of total animals slaughtered, prohibiting their inclusion in the food chain altogether would cause no undue economic hardship to any affected party. Furthermore, why not resolve the problem of downed animals at the source, which is prioritizing and requiring better treatment and handling as a preventative measure. Certainly, animal handlers would be more careful and humane if downed animals were not included in the final count and literally had no economic value.

For the sake of these poor unfortunate creatures, who feel pain and fear just like you or I, and for the sake of maintaining a society that is founded on fairness, justice and conscience, I implore you and your agency to grant approval of Petition 98P-0151/CP1 upon its presentation for consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,


Steven E. Griesel

98P-0151

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